

*Stated Meeting, December 4, 1896.*

The President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Present, 27 members.

Minutes of meeting of November 20 read and approved.

Correspondence was submitted as follows :

Invitation from the Chicago Historical Society to attend the exercises at the opening of its new building, Tuesday, December 15, 1896.

Letters of envoy from the Verein f. Schlesische Insektenkunde, Breslau, Prussia ; Soc. Italiana delle Scienze, Rome ; Department of State, Washington, D. C. ; Prof. E. W. Claypole, Akron, O. ; Observatorio Astronómico, Cordoba, Republica Argentina.

Letters of acknowledgment from Mr. Samuel Davenport, Adelaide, S. Australia (148, 149) ; Observatoire phys. Central de Russie, St. Petersburg (150) ; Societas pro fauna flora fennica, Dr. Otto Donner, Helsingfors, Finland (150) ; Universitats-Biblioteket, Lund, Sweden (150) ; Musée Teyler, Harlem, Holland (150, 151) ; Prof. Edward Suess, Vienna, Austria (150) ; Redaction der *Naturwissenschaftlichen Wochenschrift* (150), Bot. Verein der Prov. Brandenburg (143, 146, 148), Prof. A. Bastian, Berlin, Prussia (150) ; Phys.-Technische Reichsanstalt, Charlottenburg, Prussia (150) ; Naturforschende Gesell., Emden, Prussia (150) ; Soc. Phys.-Medica, Erlangen, Bavaria (150) ; Verein f. Geog. u. Statistik, Frankfurt a. M., Germany (150) ; Oberhessische Gesell. f. Natur- und Heilkunde, Giessen, Germany (150) ; Verein f. Erdkunde, Metz, Germany (148) ; Philosophical Soc., Cambridge, Eng. (143, 146-150, and *Trans.*, N. S., xviii, 2 and 3) ; American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass. (151) ; Soc. Cientifica, "Antonio Alzate," Obs. Meteorol. Magnet. Central,

Mexico, Mex. (151); Obs. Meteorol. Magnet. Central, Xalapa, Mex. (151); Soc. Cientifica Argentina, Buenos Aires (148, 149).

Accessions to the library were reported from the R. Society of N. S. Wales, Sydney, Australia; Bot. Verein der Prov. Brandenburg, Berlin, Prussia; K. Sächs. Verein f. Alterthümer, Dresden; Deutsche Seewarte, Hamburg, Prussia; Verein f. Erdkunde, Metz, Germany; K. Geod. Instituts, Potsdam, Prussia; R. Instituto Lombardo, Milan, Italy; Soc. Italiana delle Scienze, Rome; R. Acad. Ciencias y Artes, Barcelona, Spain; Philosophical and Literary Society, Leeds, Eng.; Literary and Philosophical Society, Manchester, Eng.; American Oriental Society, New Haven, Conn.; American Museum Natural History, New York, N. Y.; Capt. H. H. Bellas, Germantown, Phila.; Board of Trustees of Drexel Institute, Mr. F. J. Dreer, Dr. Frederick D. Stone, Philadelphia; Acad. Mex. de Ciencias Exactes Fis. y Nat., Obs. Meteorol. y Vulcano del Seminario de Colima, Mexico, Mex.; Obs. Nacional Argentino, Buenos Aires.

Photograph was received for the Society's Album from Prof. E. W. Claypole, Akron, O.

Mr. F. D. Stone read an obituary notice of William John Potts.

The following deaths were announced:

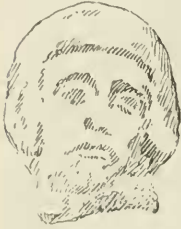
Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, London, Eng., November 21, 1896, æt. 68.

Dr. Benjamin Apthorp Gould, Cambridge, Mass., November 27, 1896, æt. 72.

Dr. William Pepper exhibited a collection of Mexican prehistoric objects of terra-cotta, obtained by him on his recent visit to the city of Mexico. They comprised a series of miniature clay heads from Teotihuacan, embracing a great variety of types, which were classified by him, for the purpose of exhibition, in accordance with the scheme published by a member of the Society, Mrs. Zelia Nuttall,\* in 1886. He

\* "The Terra-cotta Heads of Teotihuacan," *American Journal of Archaeology*, Vol. ii, Nos. 2 and 3.

exhibited in connection with them some painted clay heads for small images from Canton, China, from the Museum of Archaeology and Palaeontology of the University of Pennsylvania, pointing out the striking analogy between the Mexican heads and those from China. The latter are mounted upon bodies of perishable material—of plaited rattan—which is gilded and painted in brilliant colors. They represent personages of the theatre, the emperor, ministers, generals, fairies, etc. The heads are attached to a neck consisting of plaited bamboo in the form of a



tube, and have a variety of ornamental head dresses of various materials. Among the Mexican heads shown was one representing a man with a beard, of much strength and beauty of design. The features were apparently those of a European. The general object of the exhibition was to illustrate a parallel usage with that indicated by Mrs. Nuttall in reference to the Mexican heads, and to provoke a discussion of the extremely interesting questions that underlie them. In addition, Dr. Pepper exhibited some very perfect and fragile objects of terra-cotta from Vera Cruz, of a uniformly fine light clay; comprising among others a craw fish and a cup (censer?) with a tall conical cover.

Dr. Brinton expressed the view that these were votive offerings representing symbolic burial.

Dr. Allen referred to the figures as a representation of life form in art.

Dr. J. Cheston Morris made a communication "On Genesis xi. 1-9 as a Poetic Fragment."

Pending nominations 1332, 1334, 1357, 1358, 1362, 1363, and new nominations 1364 and 1365 were read.

The report of the Treasurer was then read and referred to the Finance Committee for examination and report.

Rough minutes were then read and approved, and the Society was adjourned.